

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for implanting a prosthetic device in a body comprising:

placing a first suture through tissue at a first position using a first needle of a suture system having at least three needles connected by suture strands;

placing a second needle of a the suture system, ~~having an associated~~ the second needle being attached to a double stranded suture, in the tissue at a distance from the first position, different strands of the double stranded suture that are attached to the second needle having different indicators such that the different strands attached to the second needle can be identified;

placing additional sutures using additional needles attached to the second needle through the tissue;

placing the first suture in the prosthetic device using the single-threaded needle of the suture system;

placing the second needle and an associated double-stranded suture in the prosthetic device;

placing additional sutures using additional double-stranded sutures along the prosthetic device; and

securing the prosthetic device into position.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the strands of the double-stranded suture are of different colors.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first suture strand is green and another suture strand is white.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein a third strand color is formed with a pair of braided strands of different colors.
5. (Currently Amended) A suture device for suturing a prosthetic device to tissue comprising:

a plurality of at least three connected needles with at least one of the connected needle-needles being associated ~~with-attached to~~ a double stranded suture, at least one strand of the double stranded suture ~~associated with-attached~~ to the at least one needle having a visual indicator to distinguish the at least one strand from a second strand ~~associated with-attached to~~ the at least one needle;

each suture strand extending between a pair of the connected needles such that suture strands can be identified

with the visual indicator, the needles being removable from the suture strands after insertion through a prosthetic device and the ends of each strand being identified and secured together to attach the device to the tissue.

6. (Original) The suture device of claim 5 wherein the suture strands include strands of at least two different colors.
7. (Original) The suture device of claim 5 wherein the device has at least three needles that are each associated with at least two strands.
8. (Original) The suture device of claim 5 further comprising a first needle attached to a single strand and a last needle attached to a single strand and said at least one needle associated with at least two suture strands there between.
9. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 further comprising a plurality of suture pads such that each needle is attached to another needle with a suture strand having a pad attached to the suture strand.

10. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 wherein the prosthetic device further comprises a cuff through which suture strands are threaded.
11. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 wherein the prosthetic device comprises a valve.
12. (Currently Amended) The suture device of claim 5 further comprising a package for housing the suture device, the package having at least six needles.
13. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 further comprising a mechanical suture placement device.
14. (Previously Presented) The suture device of claim 5 wherein the prosthetic device comprises an aortic valve.
15. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing one or more suture pads that are attached to the suture strands.
16. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising passing the suture strands through a cuff of the prosthetic device.

17. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising passing the different strands attached to the second needle through the same hole in the tissue at a second position.
18. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the prosthetic device comprises a valve.
19. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing the suture system in a package.
20. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a suture system having at least needles attached by suture strands with alternating colors.